

ARISTOLOCHIA TOMENTOSA SIMS
ESTABLISHED AT TWO WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS SITES

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The pipe-vine or Dutchman's pipe-vine, *Aristolochia tomentosa* Sims, is a high-twining shrubby liana native to stream edge habitats of the southeastern and south central United States (Pfeifer, 1966). The similar *A. macrophylla* Lam. occurs in forests of the southeastern Appalachians. Pfeifer (1966) noted that the natural ranges of these species are separate, with "neither sympatry nor hybridization" where they border in the Smoky Mountains. Both species are widely planted northward as fast-growing covers for trellises, fences and verandas. *Aristolochia tomentosa* has not been reported outside cultivation in New England, although it is naturalized locally in western New York (Fernald, 1950). *Aristolochia macrophylla*, more frequently cultivated, has become naturalized at some New England stations (Fernald, 1950). Pfeiffer (1966) reported this species from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, and Seymour (1969) cited Connecticut and Vermont specimens.

In June, 1982, Constance A. Parks and I found a small colony of *Aristolochia tomentosa* in the Mt. Tom State Reservation, Hampden Co., near the Hampshire Co. line. The vines occur on the north side of Christopher Clark Road approximately 30 m southwest of the Mt. Nonotuck overlook at an elevation of about 210 m. Several stems ascend a distance of 6 m or more to the top of a northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa* Warder) while others scramble into a nearby staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina* L.). Smaller pipe-vines, apparently seedlings, occur among herbaceous vegetation near the base of the older vines. The large vines were flowering on June 22, 1982, and on the same date in 1983, but did not set fruit either year.

A second, much larger colony of *Aristolochia tomentosa* occurs near the west bank of the Connecticut River in Deerfield, Franklin Co. *Aristolochia tomentosa* was first observed at this site by Roberta Poland on August 29, 1957 (personal communication). The vines occur in the vicinity of old cellar holes on the east side of McClellan Farm road, approximately 1.9 km from the southern intersection of McClellan Farm Road with River Road and

opposite the East Deerfield railroad yards. On July 4, 1967, Mrs. Poland visited the site with the late Harry E. Ahles. Specimens collected in 1967 are now on file in the University of Massachusetts Herbarium and in Mrs. Poland's personal herbarium. By summer, 1983, *A. tomentosa* had spread roughly 40 m along McClellan Farm Road, extending from the road edge eastward 15 m or more past the cellar holes and into a ravine which approaches the Connecticut River. Individual pipe-vines range in size from seedlings of the current year to very large plants which climb 12 m or more into various support trees, including staghorn sumac and northern catalpa. Several of these trees, especially the sumacs, are dead or dying and the aspect of the colony resembles that of sites farther south where kudzu [*Pueraria lobata* (Willd.) Ohwi.] or Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.) have overrun woody vegetation.

The Deerfield colony of *Aristolochia tomentosa* almost certainly originated from a plant or plants persistent after cultivation, along with lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris* L.) and summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata* L.), which are also common in the immediate vicinity. The origin of the Mt. Tom pipe-vines is unknown. Given the widely differing habitats in which the two western Massachusetts colonies are established and the vigor which both *A. tomentosa* and *A. macrophylla* show in cultivation, these species might be expected to be spreading elsewhere in the region.

I am grateful to Roberta Poland for showing me the Deerfield colony of *A. tomentosa* and sharing her knowledge of the site and to Marian Rohman for assistance again with this project. Specimens from both sites are in MASS and SCHN.

LITERATURE CITED

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